

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of National Philanthropy Day, I rise to draw attention to the generosity of the American people and the organizations that work to give hope and help to so many in our country. National Philanthropy Day is recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals on November 15.

More specifically, I rise today in recognition of the many Missourians who give selflessly of their time, talent and finances to assist neighbors in need as well as victims of poverty, natural disaster and conflict. I commend the good work of the volunteers and staff of non-profit organizations and the financial donors who underwrite their efforts.

According to a study by the U.S. Department of Labor and Purdue University, more than 30 percent of Missourians volunteered their time in 2003. The paid staff of charitable organizations should be commended highly for their good work. However, most would agree that they simply could not do what they do without the hearts, minds and hands of dedicated volunteers.

So, today, I recognize not only the organizations but the people who brighten the days of those in need. It was Theodore Roosevelt who charged all of our fellow citizens to "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." Many of my constituents in the St. Louis area are doing just that.

Following is a small sampling of the numerous charitable organizations doing great things in and around Missouri's Second Congressional District. Each of these charities has distinguished itself in a variety of ways and should be commended for its good work in the St. Louis area. Their sacrifice and compassion is building a better society for all, and we all are in their debt.

Boone Center, www.boonecenter.com. BCI is a St. Charles County non-profit organization committed to providing employment opportunities for adults with disabilities. Established in 1959 as a one-employee candle making shop, Boone Center now employs over 200 adults with disabilities.

Catholic Charities of St. Louis, www.ccstl.org. A federation of 12 agencies and more than 100 programs providing services to people in need including housing services, elder and child day care programs, substance abuse recovery, legal assistance, foster care, emergency shelter and community outreach programs just to name a few. Last year they provided direct services to more than 111,000 individuals.

Connections to Success, www.connectionstosuccess.org. An organization which defines itself as devoted to breaking the cycle of poverty one family at a time. Programs include; Dress for Success, Professional Women's Group, Wheels for Success, Wheels of Hope and a faith-based mentoring program.

Extra Hands for ALS, www.extrahands.org. Based in St. Louis, Extra Hands for ALS is a national voluntary service charity assisting people with ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease. Extra Hands partners high school and

college students with families affected with an ALS diagnosed individual to assist them in everyday tasks.

Joyce Meyer Ministries World Outreach, http://www.joycemeyer.org/projects/wo_sub/index.php. Provides humanitarian aid to the world's poor and in response to natural disaster such as the recent tsunami. Assistance includes personal items such as food, water, clothing, hygiene items, and items necessary for rebuilding communities such as boats, bicycles and sewing machines.

KidSmart, <http://www.kidsmartstl.org/>. KidSmart works to provide children and their classrooms with the basic tools for learning by transferring, at no cost, the community's surplus supplies and merchandise into the hands of teachers for school children in need.

Mercy Ministries, <http://www.mercyministries.org/>. Mercy Ministries is a full-time residential care ministry for young women who are struggling with life-controlling issues such as eating disorders, depression, abuse, and chemical dependency. Each girl stays free-of-charge. She comes voluntarily and spends, on average, six months in the home as she deals with the underlying causes of her difficulties.

Mission Gate Prison Ministry, www.missiongateministry.org. Provides residential guidance and counseling to 75 former alcoholics, drug users and convicts in both St. Louis after-care and Fort Good Shepherd Ranch. They also provide evangelistic services in prisons and shelters and the Christmas Angel mission reaching thousands of prisoners' children with gifts, the gospel of Christ and church referral.

Pregnancy Resource Center, <http://www.prcmo.net/index.php>. The Pregnancy Resource Center provides support and counseling to pregnant women and girls including free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, counseling, parenting education, mentoring programs for men and essential items for newborns. Women are also referred for prenatal care, which is often their first contact with a healthcare provider.

Service International, www.serviceinternational.org. Service International (SI) works in the U.S. and abroad, working to empower individuals and communities in crisis by providing leadership training, volunteer coordination, medical care, materials and supplies, and hands-on rebuilding. SI brings fresh hope and tangible help through sustained recovery, with the goal of honoring God and helping people.

Saint Louis Crisis Nursery, <http://www.crisisnurserykids.com/>. Works to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing emergency intervention, respite care and support to families in crisis through short-term care for young children, helping families resolve crisis, offering ongoing support and education to families, providing community outreach and awareness, and advocating for children and families.

Saint Patrick Center, www.stpatrickcenter.org. Saint Patrick Center has impacted the lives of more than 65,000 homeless persons and is recognized nationally for programs that help individuals and families move from homelessness to independence in measurable, cost-effective ways. The Center serves 10,000 individuals and families annually.

These organizations could not function effectively without the support of individual do-

nors and philanthropic grantmakers. Mother Teresa said, "To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it." Donors give staff and volunteers the financial tools that they need to do the charitable work to which they are committed.

Some of the key foundations fueling charitable organizations in St. Louis include: Anheuser-Busch Foundation, Boeing-McDonnell Foundation, The Crawford Taylor Foundation, Daughters of Charity Foundation, Deer Creek Foundation, Emerson Charitable Trust, Employees Community Fund of Boeing-St. Louis, James S. McDonnell Foundation, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, Monsanto Fund, National Children's Cancer Society, Inc., and the St. Louis Cardinals Community Fund.

The charities and grantmakers mentioned in this statement are just examples of the thousands of American NGO's endeavoring to improve the lives of others both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to reflect on the hard work and dedication of so many who take to heart the words of Scripture, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). It is with admiration and respect that I commend the charitable community for stepping in to provide aid to the most vulnerable among us.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
THE SHENANGO VALLEY YMCA**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the opening of the new Shenango Valley YMCA of Hermitage, Pennsylvania.

Since the founding of the first YMCA in 1851, this organization has grown to more than 2,500 locations nationwide. In fact, they make up the largest non-profit organization in the country. The YMCA works with people of all races, genders, faiths, ages, and incomes to help communities promote healthy lifestyles.

On October 26, 2005 there will be a dedication ceremony held at the new facility in Hermitage, Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the dedication of the Shenango Valley YMCA. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an exceptional organization like the YMCA.

TRIBUTE TO KALAMAZOO
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary with a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra on November 18, 2005.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League was founded in 1930 by Leta G. Snow

and was originally known as the Women's Committee. Through the years the League raised over \$1.7 million and offered many community and educational programs to folks in the Kalamazoo area by making orchestral music a part of their daily lives.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League provides services to our District that far surpasses the vital cultural contribution that their musical performances provide. I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League, congratulate them on 75 impressive years of entertaining the residents of Southwestern Michigan, and wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING PFC. TYLER MACKENZIE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart and I wish to ask the members in this chamber to join me in honoring a fallen soldier from Evans, Colorado. Last week, Private Tyler MacKenzie was killed in action while serving our Nation, in Iraq. He was a patriot that believed strongly in the freedoms we enjoy here in America and joined the Army to help defend the rights of citizens in Iraq.

This is particularly poignant because today Private MacKenzie would have commemorated his life in another way, by celebrating his 21st birthday. However, because of his willingness to serve and place his life on the line for others, we honor him as a fallen soldier.

Private MacKenzie comes from a family with a long military tradition. Both of his grandfathers, Emmett MacKenzie and Ron Borland, served in the Navy. Tyler's father, David, served in the Army during the first Gulf War and his Uncle Chuck was an Engineer in the Army. As a young child, Tyler lived in places like Louisiana and Germany as his dad's stations changed.

For the most part, however, Tyler grew up in the small town of Evans. He attended Greeley West High School and played football. After he graduated in 2003, Tyler worked in the family-owned business, MacKenzie Manufacturing.

He postponed joining the Army in order to train physically and recognized that he wanted to further mature. He did this because he knew once he joined that he would strive for the top and train for the elite Army special forces.

Once he joined, Tyler MacKenzie entered into the renowned 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He was in the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Sadly, Private MacKenzie was in Iraq only a short time. On November 2, 2005, after nearly three weeks in Iraq, he died in combat when a roadside bomb exploded near his armored Humvee in the southern part of Baghdad.

His courage is admirable, and as the legislative body that votes to send our service members into battle, I want to stress this point: He knew what he needed to do, and that was to join our military for at least one

tour of duty to help defend our Nation so the same freedoms we have in America could soon be enjoyed by individuals throughout Iraq.

I spoke with his family, and they are heartbroken about their loss, undoubtedly. However, they are to be admired for their courage and continued dedication to America's military forces who are fighting terrorists in the Middle East. They continue to support the President and ask that America's leaders not give up this fight.

See, last November was the first time Tyler MacKenzie could vote in Federal elections, and he voted to support President Bush because he knew the President was the one he wanted to be Commander in Chief.

As a mother of a sailor, my heart goes out to Tyler's parents David and Julie MacKenzie and his sister Nicole.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country that honors citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Tyler who are willing to fight to defend them for us.

HONORING SHERIFF RICKY HEADLEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Williamson County's own "Singing Sheriff", Ricky Headley. Since he took office in 2003, Headley has been instrumental in improving the lives of Williamson County residents—not only as Sheriff, but through his charitable works as well.

As Sheriff, Headley has instituted new procedures, increased community outreach, and raised morale in the Sheriff's Office. A few of Headley's accomplishments include:

A reduced Staff turnover rate at the Sheriff's Office.

The Amber Alert System has been installed to assist in locating missing children.

Privatized Jail Medical Program to save taxpayers' money and reduce liability.

Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Classes offered for the first time.

Project Lifesaver implemented in April 2005 provides identification bracelets fitted with location transmitters for the mentally handicapped and Alzheimer's patients in order to allow their quick recovery should they wander from home.

A Child Is Missing (ACIM) implemented in January 2005. This nationwide program allows for 1000 calls a minute to be made in a specific area should a child be reported missing.

The result has been a decreasing crime rate in Williamson County even as the population increases.

And despite the incredible demands of his job, Headley continues to delight Tennesseans with his musical talent. Performing with his band, Pure Country, Headley has entertained at more than 100 benefits and fundraisers—helping to raise over 300,000 dollars for charity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Sheriff Headley for his contributions to Williamson County and sending our best wishes to his wife Melissa and children Ricky Jr. and Matt.

ON THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TEACHING OF WRITING MADE BY JAMES GRAY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of James Gray, the founder of a small but enormously successful educational program called the National Writing Project. Sadly, Mr. Gray died on November 1 in Danville, California after a long illness. He was only 78 years old.

Mr. Gray, a former high school teacher and then a senior lecturer at University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, founded the innovative Bay Area Writing Project in 1974. Acting on his belief that successful classroom teachers were an untapped resource for providing their peers with professional development, James Gray brought together 25 talented Bay Area teachers and charged them with sharing their expertise about the teaching of writing.

The Bay Area Writing Project became the first site that offered a professional development model for teachers of writing. Now known as the National Writing Project (NWP), the program has grown to 189 university-based sites located in fifty states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Congress, on a bi-partisan basis, has shown its recognition for the value of this program by providing Federal appropriations for it for over ten years and I am proud to have helped secure these well-spent funds for this purpose.

Mr. Gray served as Executive Director of the NWP until his retirement in 1994 and remained on the NWP Board of Directors until his death.

James Gray's simple but highly successful model has been responsible for transforming classroom practices and improving student writing performance at schools in rural, urban, and suburban communities across the U.S.

A May 2001 Academy for Educational Development report notes the impact of that vision: "Teachers described their experience with the writing project as nothing short of profound. Beginning with the summer institute and continuing throughout their careers with continuity programs, teachers noted how their philosophy about teaching and learning, their daily practices, and their connection to a network of teachers developed through the project."

I couldn't agree more with Richard Sterling, the NWP Executive Director, when he said that, "Jim's belief in teachers and their knowledge, commitment, and creativity never wavered. We are all the beneficiaries of his vision and his tireless work on behalf of the National Writing Project." I am honored to have known James Gray personally and I am grateful for his vision, and I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S.